

Sine House
CH-219
Newport
Private

Mid 19th century

Constructed in the mid-19th century, the Sine House is a 1 ½ story frame dwelling that is three bays wide on the eave elevation. Standing just outside of the village of Newport and bordering Newport, (now Gilbert Swamp) Run, the house has an overall double-pile plan with four rooms occupying the main block of the first floor. A quarter-turn stair occupies the southwest corner chamber. Projecting from the northeast eave elevation is a late 19th century side-gable kitchen. A late 19th century meathouse and an early 20th century garage contribute to the site's overall significance. Although the early history of the property is quite obscure the property may have originally been built for members of the Swann family. By 1878, the dwelling came under the possession of John T. Higdon, remaining in the family for the next thirty years. During the 1960's the house was extensively restored.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CH-219

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Sine House
other Harriet Swann House

2. Location

street and number 10590 Newport Church Road not for publication
city, town Newport vicinity
county Charles

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Charles and Lora Piersall
street and number 10590 Newport Church Road telephone 301-934-9569
city, town Charlotte Hall state MD zip code 20622

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Charles County Courthouse tax map and parcel: 74 p.4
city, town La Plata liber 938 folio 284

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report
☐ Other

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			1

7. Description

Inventory No. CH-219

Condition

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Erected during the mid-19th century, the Sine House is an excellent, well-maintained example of a little understood form in Charles County. The 1 1/2 story double-pile frame dwelling stands in the village of Newport and includes a setting of thirty-six acres bordered by Gilbert Run Swamp (previously known as Newport Run. The house includes a one story kitchen wing attached to the east gable end. The southwestern border is marked by Newport Run Road that borders a fence-lined open pasture. The site includes a contributing early 20th century garage and a meathouse erected around 1890. Noncontributing resources include a chicken house and cattle shed, both built in the 1970's.

A continuous stone rubble foundation supports the frame which is sheathed in wood siding. Contemporary replacement 6/6 wood double-hung windows are found throughout and a rebuilt exterior end chimney is located on the kitchen wing. The roof has composition shingles. Unfortunately, the original chimneys are no longer extant. The front elevation includes a pair of gabled dormers. The three bays consist of a door to the west and two windows to the east. A shed roof porch extends the gable roofline and is supported with four square wood posts. The entrance door is framed with reeded pilasters and plinth. The side or west elevation includes one first floor 6/6 window and two second story 6/6 windows. The north elevation includes an enclosed porch and a single dormer piercing the roofline.

The kitchen wing, which extends from the east elevation of the main block, may pre-date the main block but has been obscured by later renovations. The kitchen has an overall hall and parlor plan with two dormers piercing the front elevation and one to the rear. The kitchen wing, a one and 1/2 story building, has a boxed cornice, and a replacement chimney flue on the east wall. The south elevation has two 6/6 windows. The gable end includes a 2/2 Victorian window in the attic and a gable-porch covered door near the southeast corner. A window stands next to the door. The north elevation includes an offset doorway, a 6/6 window and a replacement pair of contemporary 6/6 windows. Interior features include a nicely executed quarter-turn stair, slender turned newel and a carved banister. Plaster walls and doors are intact.

It appears that the home underwent an extensive restoration during the 1960's and therefore warrants further study to determine the extent of the alterations and/or embellishments made at that time.

8. Significance

Inventory No. CH-219

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/	<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
Specific dates	1820-1860	Architect/Builder	Unknown		
Construction dates	1820-1860				

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register ☐ Maryland Register ☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

The Sine House is significant architecturally as well as for its association with the crossroads village of Newport. To date, the history of its ownership is only partially understood. It is clear that in 1878 John T. Higdon acquired several parcels including, Part of St. Thomas containing 35 acres, Westwood Manor containing 29 acres and Apington, 53 acres along with the improvements found on the land. These were previously owned by Harriet B. Swann, whose estate was disputed between 1867-1878. The Higdon family owned the property until 1910 when it was sold at public sale to Leonard S. Herbert, owner of Newport Hall. At this time the property was described as being the dwelling formerly occupied by the Higdon family and now occupied by Frank Mattingly. The Herbert's kept the property until the early 1960's when it was acquired by Julien and Dortha Brown in 1963 who it is believed began restoration of the property.

Although there is scant visual evidence to reveal Newport's earliest history, the village was one of the first crossroads communities in Charles County. The village is identified in Griffith's map of 1794 (1) and Martinet's earliest maps of Maryland published in 1865 (2) According to a Baltimore Directory, by 1880, Newport supported a population of 60, four public schools, two physicians, two mills, and two general stores, one also serving as post office, and one hotel.(3)

Endnotes

(1) Griffith, Dennis. Map of the State of Maryland Laid down from an actual Survey of all the Principal Waters, public Roads, and Divisions of the Counties therein....Philadelphia, PA: J. Tallance, Engraver, June 6, 1795.

(2) Martenet, Simon J. Martinet's Map of Maryland and the District of Columbia. Baltimore, MD:
☐ Simon J. Martenet, C.E., 1865.

(3) The Maryland Directory. 1880. Published by Frank Lewis & Co., Baltimore.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CH-219

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 36.02

Acreage of historical setting 63

Quadrangle name Popes Creek

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

Sine House is associated with Charles County Property Tax Map 74, Parcel 4, Grid 4.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Cathy Hardy/Historic Sites Surveyor
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organization	Charles County Planning
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date	6/8/2002
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street and number	200 Baltimore Street
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telephone	301-396-5815
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city or town	La Plata
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state	MD	zip code	20646
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The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032
410-514-7600

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-219

Section 8 Page 1

Sine House

name of property

Charles County, MD

county and state

Chain of Title:

- 1972 Clement Dersin and Florence Dersin to Charles H. Piersall, Jr. and Lora J. Piersall. *Lot situated on the east side of the old State road leading from Newport to Wicomico...buildings and improvements.*
251/76
- 1968 Julian T. and Dorthea Brown to Clement and Florence Dersin. *31.33 acres buildings and improvements.*
200/32
- 1963 John Allen Herbert and Hilda Herbert, first part, Christine Middleton (mortgage holder), second part, Julian T. and Dorthea Brown.
164/677
- 1960 John Allen Herbert, mortgager to Christine Middleton mortgagee.
1st - 1 acre JST 2/310.
2nd - 13 7/8 WMA 34/103 three parcels
3rd 34 acres HCC 23/82
Being same obtained by John A. Herbert from Victor Herbert, et al in 1952 PCM 104/316, and by inheritance from his grandfather, Leonard S. Herbert.
Mortgage 52/384
- 1911 To Leonard S. Herbert. Public sale in 1910. Mortgage from Mary R. and John W. Thompson in 1908 FDM 19/326 assigned by Florence M. Higdon to Walter J. Mitchell. Defaulted by Thompson.
1st - 75 acres "The Race Field"
2nd - lying east and northeast of the public road leading from Dentsville to Wicomico through Newport and being **the site of the dwelling formerly occupied by the Higdon family and now occupied by Frank Mattingly.**
Improvements thereupon.
HCC 23/82
- 1908 Mortgage Mary R. Thompson and John W. Thompson hus. Indebted to Florence M. Higdon of Washington D.C.
4 tracts
1st - tract conveyed to J. Thomas Higdon, late in 1878 "Westwood Manor", "Part

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-219

Section 9 Page 1

Sine House
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

of St. Thomas" 63 3/4 acres
FDM 19/326

1878 Mitchell and Stone, trustees to John T. Higdon. Court of Equity in case of John R. Turner, exe of Harriet B. Swann vs. Henry A. Burch and others 1867.
Part of "St. Thomas" containing 34 3/4 acres
"Westwood Manor" containing 29 acres
"Apington" 53 acres
Improvements
BGS 2/110

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-219

Section 9 Page 1

Sine House
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

Major Bibliographic References:

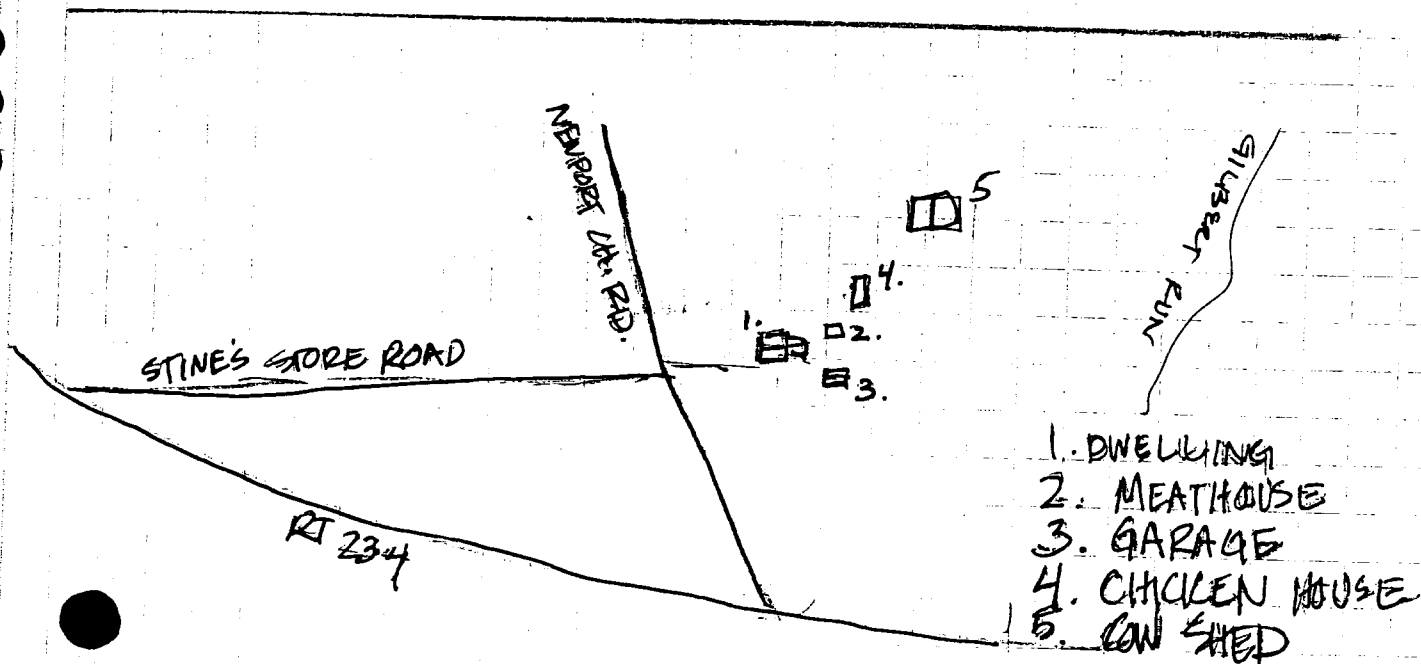
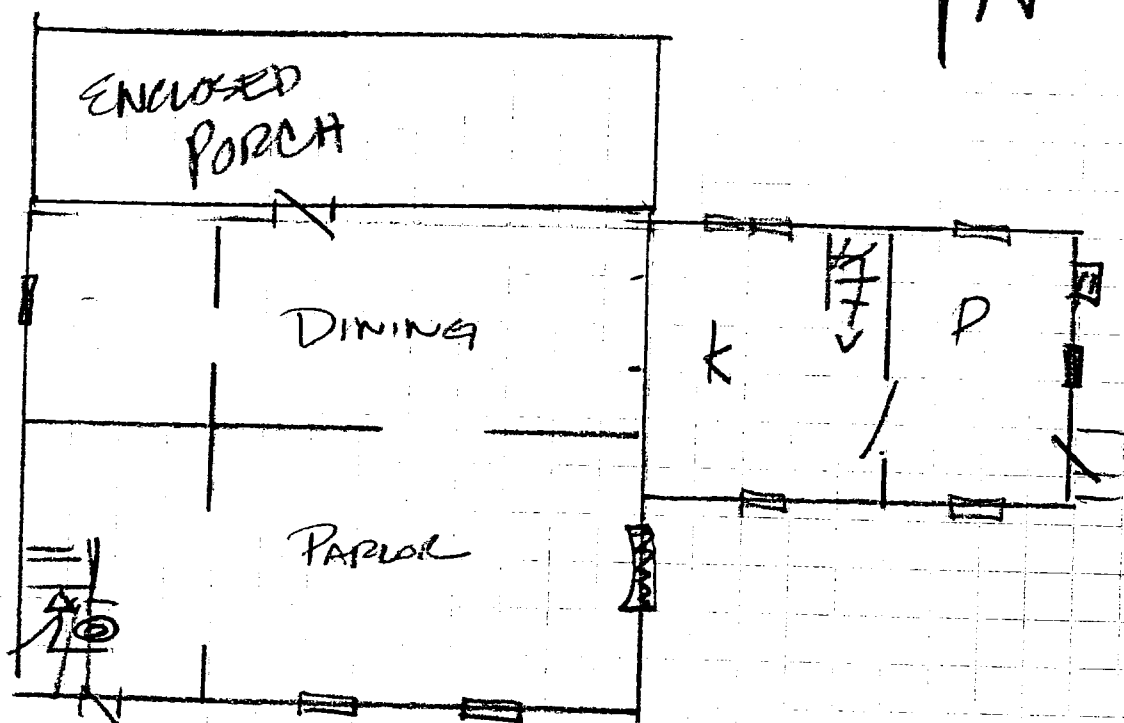
Brown, Jack D., et al. Charles County, Maryland, A History.
Charles County Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

Charles County Land Records, Charles County Courthouse, LaPlata, Maryland.

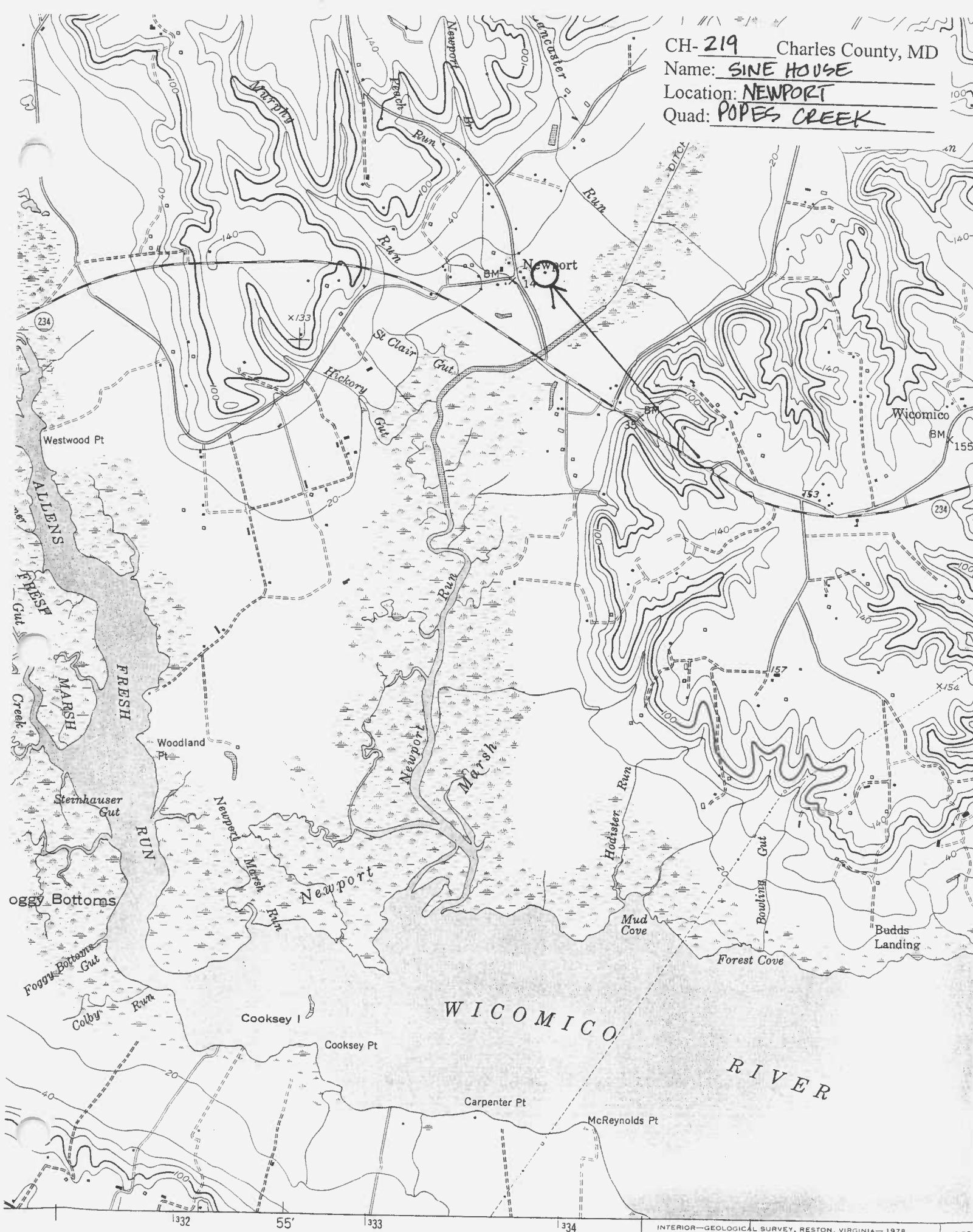
Klapthor, Margaret Brown. The History of Charles County, Maryland.
LaPlata, MD: Charles County Tercentenary, Inc., 1958.

Lloyd, Daniel B. The Lloyds of Southern Maryland.
Washington D.C., Self-published. 1971.

CH-219



CH-219 Charles County, MD
Name: SINE HOUSE
Location: NEWPORT
Quad: POPES CREEK



CH-219
Sine House
Newport
Private

19th century (?)

This small one-story, frame house originally possessed two exterior chimneys at the east end, one of which no longer stands. The structure itself has been extensively altered with 20th century renovations. This is the only early house still standing in the small village of Newport.



CH-219
Sine House
Charles Co. Md.
G. Currey

11/2002
MOSHPO

LOOKING NORTH

1 OF 6



CH-219
Sine House
Charles Co. Md.
C. Currey
11/2002
MD SHPO
LOOKING NE
20F6



CH-219
Sine House
Charles Co. MD
C. Currey
1/2002
MD SHPO
LOOKING
3 OF 6



CH-219
Sine House
Charles Co, Md.
C. Currey
1/2002
MD SHPO
LOOKING NW
40FB



CH-219
Sine House
Charles Co, Md.
C. Currey
1/2002
MD SHPO
STAIR
50Fb



CH-219
Sine House
Charles Co, Md.
C. Currey
1/2002
MD SHPO
UPSTAIRS, LOOKING E
6 of 6